

## **“Illegal Wood Sales,” those who are harvesting firewood illegally will be PROSECUTED!!**

The hot summer weather is changing and we are beginning to experience the cool autumn air and soon the cold winter rains will be upon us too. Community members are starting to prepare for the winter by going out in the forests to cut firewood for their homes to heat and keep the chilly weather out. There are rules for cutting firewood on our reservation passed by the tribal council and enforced by the Recreation and Wildlife Game Rangers and the San Carlos Tribal Police Department. Also, off-reservation, local town police departments and DPS (Department of Public Safety/Highway Patrol) will be on patrol for pickup trucks and semi-trucks loaded with fire wood. They will be checking for **resale and hauling firewood permits** and if you do not have either one of them, they may give you a citation, put you in jail, or confiscate your wood and your pick-up truck/vehicle. So, it will pay to be honest by making sure you are getting your fire wood permits in order before you go out to cut firewood, staves, posts, poles, etc... This is a reminder for you to go to Forestry and get a copy of the **Wood Cutting Rules/Guidelines** before you get yourself into serious trouble. There are two types of wood permits: one for “**home-use**” and one for “**commercial - resale**”. If you are not following these rules you are “**illegally cutting wood**” and you may suffer certain consequences by going to jail, or having to pay a hefty fine, or by confiscating your wood, chainsaw, vehicle and wood trailer, it depends upon the severity of the “**theft charges**”. Some of the basic “**home-use**” **guidelines** are that you have to have an updated wood permit from Forestry Office before you can cut wood, you get them annually in the month of July, if you don’t have one in your possession when cutting wood you are **cutting illegally!** For a **home use permit** it is free and does not cost anything. You can only pick up the dead and down juniper, oak, mesquite, and miscellaneous hard woods. If you are in a designated wood block harvest area, you can cut only the blue painted trees selected by Forestry. You are only allowed 10 cords of firewood under your home use permit. Only one permit per household and you must be at least 18 years old to get a permit. You may not harvest wood in the five closed areas, Bylas-Goodwin Wash, Seneca, Ash Creek, Cutter-Beverly Hills, see map in booklet. **You cannot resell any of your home use fire wood** or wood products. A cord of wood measures four ft. by four ft. by 8 ft., equaling 128 cubic ft. (4’x4’x8’=128 ft.<sup>3</sup>), which is larger than the back of a pick-up truck. For a **commercial resale permit** you have to get a **\$5.00 money order per cord** and take it to Forestry

Office up at the Forestry Compound to the front desk and ask for a **commercial resale permit** for one cord of firewood to resell, **you must cut** only the wood designated in a resale wood block area, they are listed in the booklet too, or a wood harvest sign will be posted in the area. You cannot cut firewood in the five closed areas, see booklet. If you are caught cutting firewood for resale outside of the designated wood harvesting area you can be prosecuted for not cutting in the right area. If you are reselling it outside the reservation you will also need a hauling permit at no cost to you. You will give your resale and hauling permit to the person you sell the firewood to, so they can verify they bought it from you and if they are questioned they will have proof. There is a limit of \$10,000 that you can purchase within one year. A **special use permit** is usually a written letter from a tribal member to procure wood by a certain process in a certain area containing special provisions, which is approved and signed by the Tribal Chairman, and cannot be resold. There are also special provisions for wakes and ceremonial dances; collecting certain types of plants; non-tribal member spouses; and cutting of live or standing dead trees (only in the designated harvest wood block). Regulated species include: Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Oak species, Pinyon pine, Juniper species, Mesquite, Miscellaneous Hardwoods, i.e., Cottonwood, Willow, Walnut, etc... **Live Mesquite** is not to be cut except for wakes or ceremonials. Standing dead mesquite may be cut for **home use**. Dead branches on live mesquite may be cut for **home use**. Tribal members living off-reservation are restricted to three (3) cords per year of mesquite wood for **off-reservation Home Use**. Off-road driving will not be permitted because deep vehicle tire rutting may occur destroying the soil bed and during wet periods of rain & snow wood cutting may be suspended by the Tribal Chairman, and recommended by the Forest Manager. **Do not cut in Riparian areas**, within 400 feet of lakes, live streams, stock ponds, or springs, and picnic grounds and recreational sites are prohibited! Trash removal is the responsibility of the permittee **“Pack it in, Pack it out”!** Permittees must close all gates which they open and follow the rules left behind for gate protocol. Any damages to existing facilities will be replaced, repaired, or compensated for by the permittee (you) at your own expense. Each household is allowed one (1) Christmas tree per year for home-use. Only Pinyon pine or Juniper may be used for Christmas trees. **Do not cut Douglas fir** and do not cut the top of off of a tree to use as a Christmas tree, you will be cited and have to pay a fine. This is a quick overview of the present day Woodland Regulations, for details read the booklet.

One of the most important items is the **Wood Hauling Permit (see picture with article)** which is given to you when you buy a **commercial resale permit** and are planning to sell wood to a buyer living on or off the reservation and for those tribal members hauling wood off the reservation. The wood hauling permit is Yellow in color (3 ins. by 8 ½ ins. in size) and has a perforation so that it can be torn into two pieces. The top portion of the permit **must be signed by the wood buyer and returned** to the Forestry Office. **If it is not returned you will not be able to get another wood hauling permit!** The bottom portion of the permit is **given to the Wood Buyer** with the total number of firewood cords written on it. Wood Buyers, the yellow tag is your proof of purchase! **NOTE: IT IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE IF YOU ARE CAUGHT WITHOUT THE RESALE WOOD HAULING TAG PERMIT and you cannot show proof of purchasing the firewood or wood products from the San Carlos Apache Tribal Reservation! ANY AND ALL THE ABOVE OFFENCES MAY BE PROSECUTED THROUGH THE FEDERAL COURTS!!** Are you willing to take that chance? Also, **please report all illegal wood harvesting activities to the Forestry Program (928-475-2326), Wildlife Game & Fish Rangers (928-475-2236), or the SC Police Department (928-475-2311), or outside local police departments.**

Presently, we've been in the process of reviewing and updating the current Woodland Regulations. We appreciate any comments, concerns, or information that you would like to contribute in revamping our woodland bylaws. You can contact the Forestry Program, Attention: Woodlands Forester at Box 0, San Carlos, Arizona 85550 or call: 928-475-2326, ext. 340.

The Indeh Bi Chezh Apache Woodcutter's Coop (wood yard) **is now open by calling (928)- 228-3989 and they will meet you at the wood yard to sell you wood.** One cord of Juniper is \$210 (split) and \$195 (unsplit); for **tribal members there is a discount** - Juniper one cord \$200 (split) and \$185 (unsplit). No oak for sale at the present time! They also have staves, posts, and Pine (cords) for sale. The wood yard will be buying wood in a couple of weeks when they are financially set up. Wood Delivery can be negotiated at the time of purchase. **Any questions call (928)-228-3989 (a local number).**